Statewide Virtual Pink Meeting

Wednesday, April 19th, 12-1:30 PM
Via Zoom

Early season precision crop load management strategies, along with pest and disease management recommendations by Cornell University faculty and Cornell Cooperative Extension Fruit Team specialists. Jointly hosted by the CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program and the CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program.

Please use this link [https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rdu-vpjIvGN0wMNRqtZXaQ8ugwnu3MEKz](https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rdu-vpjIvGN0wMNRqtZXaQ8ugwnu3MEKz) to register.

Agenda:
Welcome and Zoom Reminders – Craig Kahlke, CCE-LOF
Sponsor Spots – Agro-100, BASF, BioSafe, and Gowan
Managing Crop Load Early at Green Tip and Full Bloom for Optimum Results – Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell University
Early Season Insect Management – Dr. Monique Rivera, Cornell University
Early Season Disease Management – Dr. Kerik Cox, Cornell University

Thanks to Our Sponsors!!!!
What are the actual regulations?

Diazinon and Ziram are two materials recently under scrutiny in tree fruit production. Diazinon is an organophosphate insecticide, which has been an effective management tool for pre-bloom control of San Jose Scale and post-bloom for broad spectrum control of major pests. Ziram is a contact carbamate fungicide, that has been used effectively as a summer cover spray for apples, to manage diseases including sooty blotch and fly speck, summer rots (white, black, and bitter), apple scab, and Fabraea leaf spot.

All pesticides are routinely reviewed by governmental and non-governmental agencies. This happens both on a cyclical basis and in special cases in response to new/changes in available information. During this process, the agencies take into account all potential risks as well as the value (based on label uses) of a product and make a decision whether it meets modern standards for human health and environmental safety. After a re-evaluation is proposed, the agencies accept public comments and revise the proposed decision accordingly. In addition, a phase-out period is created for products and label uses that are eliminated.

In Canada following this review process, Ziram is no longer permitted for use on agricultural uses (re-evaluation decision doc RVD2018-39). Similarly, Diazinon uses were lost for tree fruit crops in 2009 (RVD2009-18). The phase out period for Ziram was 2 years following the published decision (December 14, 2018), meaning the last date of use was December 14 2020 in Canada. For Diazinon, phase out depended on crop: last use date for apricot, peach, plum, and prune was December 31, 2013; for cherry and apple December 31, 2016.

As a result of these decisions, existing Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) were removed for both active ingredients, and therefore reverted to the default MRL of 0.1ppm. Fruit exported to Canada must not exceed this 0.1ppm for either Diazinon or Ziram.

In the United States, current residue tolerances can be found in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. In Canada, Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for this work and the MRLs are available in the MRL Database. At an international level, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, established by FAO and WHO, sets food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice, including residue tolerances. The goal of these standards is to ensure safety, quality, and fairness for international food trade; they are not, however, a replacement for each nation’s legislation.

What are our Diazinon alternatives if selling to Canadian markets?

Diazinon is primarily used in NY apple orchards to control San Jose Scale and Woolly Apple Aphis. In truth, if you have a heavy infestation of WAA this summer and are able to apply Diazinon based on your market niche, we would still recommend you do so. However, there are some alternatives available.

Step 0.5. Most folks are finishing up pruning at this time, but just a reminder that the more opened up the interior of the canopy is, the less likely for SJS or WAA to build up in your trees. This is in part due to increased spray coverage, but also because SJS and WAA both like protected, humid, shaded environments. Well pruned or 2D tree canopies still foster pest infestations, but are less likely to.

Step 1. Spring Oil. A ½” green through early pink oil application (2% oil earlier in the season, 1% oil by pink) will help “clean up” SJS and WAA overwintering populations (note that not oils are not specifically labeled for WAA management, but likely to provide some suppression if applied to target other insects). You could add Esteem (5oz per acre) for added efficacy against SJS. When applying horticultural oils, always remember that oil within 48hrs of a freeze event, OR a Captan or Sulfur application, will likely cause russetting!!

Step 2. Summer cover sprays. If you have a history of damaging populations of either these pests, we’d recommend you control for them at PF/1C timing, even before you begin to see populations build up this year. Then, a second application may be called for ~July/August, if you find a population while scouting.

When applying products for WAA or SJS, spray coverage is key! Always mix the product in the recommended rate of water, use any recommended adjuvants, and avoid “saving time” via driving too fast or alternate row sprays. If you’re going to apply an insecticide, do it right instead of doing it sloppy.

Highly effective summer cover spray options for WAA include Spirotetramat (Movento or Senstar) (also includes Pyriproxyfen). Movento is especially effective during the petal fall through first cover timing, because it takes time to be translocated throughout the tree to achieve maximum efficacy, and it must include a penetrating adjuvant. Later in the summer we recommend you scout for WAA by examining the interior of the canopy, especially where large limbs were pruned out, and on more susceptible cultivars such as Fuji or where you’ve noticed hotspots in the past. If you begin to notice WAA’s in July/August, you can apply Burkholderia (Venerate SC) or Flonicamid (Beleaf) to target those aerial colonies; these have moderate efficacy but work more quickly than does Movento or Senstar. Note that neonics Assail (with a NIS) or Admire Pro applications during mid-summer timing will have moderate efficacy against WAA, but I don’t recommend using them solely to target WAA. However, imidacloprid (Admire Pro) can be applied as a soil drench during the cover sprays timing.

Highly effective summer cover spray options for San Jose Scale include Movento, Senstar, Esteem, and Sivanto Prime. Refined summer oils such as JMS Stylit Oil are also effective, but as mentioned earlier, can cause russetting if used within 48hrs of a Captan or Sulfur spray. Time sprays using the Degree Day model available on NEWA (https://newa.cornell.edu/san-jose-scale).
Spring Orchard Pre-Emergent Herbicides
Mike Basedow and Janet van Zoeren

If you weren’t able to get pre-emergent herbicides on in the fall, spring still presents a good time to get something out before many annuals start to germinate. Below are some pre-emergent product recommendations to consider this spring. To help you select materials, have a look at the herbicide selection table available on our website here: https://enyh.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=744&crumb=crops|crops|apples|crop*38

For many products, at least ½” rainfall or irrigation is needed within 7 days after application to move (“activate”) the herbicide into the soil solution. Delaying activation may reduce overall performance if some weeds continue to germinate under low soil moisture conditions or if herbicide at the surface of the soil is susceptible to sunlight breakdown.

Remember, if you’ve already got seedlings germinating, you will want to include a post-emergent product as well, such as paraquat, glufosinate (broadleaves and grasses), Aim, or Venue (small broadleaves only). Pre-emergent products will also have little to no efficacy on your difficult perennial weeds that will emerge from belowground vegetative structures. These will likely need to be controlled later in the season with other well-timed, post-emergent products.

Be sure to add a post-emergent product this spring if your weeds have already begun to emerge.

Some Specific Product Reminders:

**Alian** – Group 29 - Annual broadleaves and grasses. Apply to a clean herbicide strip. Do not apply to frozen, snow covered, or saturated ground. No rainfall and do not irrigate within 48 hours of treatment. Rate and use restrictions depending on soil texture and organic matter content. Do not apply to disturbed soils. Apply to trees at least three years after planting in good growing condition. Avoid tree contact, including roots. Rotate and mix with other materials!

**Matrix** – Group 2 - Annual broadleaves and grasses. Has some post emergence activity (<1” tall). Spray solution pH of 4-8. Best results if soil is moist at application, and ¼ of rain or irrigation occurs within 2 weeks of application. Can be used in trees established 1 year+. Avoid direct contact with sensitive tissues.

**Sandea** – Group 2 – Annual broadleaves and nutsedge. Best results require application with a broad spectrum burndown herbicide, such as paraquat. Nutsedge control is best at 3-5 leaf stage. Can be used in apple and pear 1 year after planting. Not for use in stone fruit.

**Chateau SW, Chateau EZ** – Group 14 - Annual broadleaves and some grasses. Some post emergent activity, but weeds must be small (<4”). Must be applied when trees are dormant post-harvest or prior to bud break in the spring (Likely too late for many portions of ENY now). ¼” of rain or irrigation within 3-4 weeks of application needed.

Can injure green tissues. Do not apply to stressed plants. Do not apply in or near non-dormant peaches. Do not mow treated areas when green tissues are present. Do not apply to trees planted less than 1 year, unless protected.

**Goal 2X, Goaltender** – Group 14 - Annual broadleaves and some grasses. Some post emergent activity, but weeds must be small (<4”). Must be applied when trees are dormant post-harvest or prior to bud break. ¾” of rain or irrigation within 3-4 weeks of application needed. Can apply on newly planted trees once soil has settled and no cracks are present. Apply to soil and base of dormant trees.

**Diuron 4L, Diuron 80DF, Karmex 80DF** – Group 7 - Annual broadleaves and grasses. Apply early spring before weeds emerge. For apples and pears, do not apply to varieties grafted onto fully dwarfing rootstocks. For peach, only apply to trees 3 full years old or older on some labels. See label for soil texture and organic matter rate limitations. Add paraquat to help control established weeds. Addition of Surflan has improved late season annual grass and broadleaf weed control. Karmex may be applied in apple and pear plantings established at least 1 year, and peach plantings established at least 3 years.

**Prowl 3.3 EC and Prowl H2O** - Group 3 - Annual grasses and some broadleaves. Should be mixed with a broadleaf herbicide. Rate depends on soil and weed species present. Can be applied year of planting. Do not apply until soil has settled around newly transplanted trees. Do not allow contact with roots or other sensitive tissues. Prowl 3.3 EC non-bearing trees only. H2O may be used in non-bearing and bearing trees.

**Surflan** - Group 3 - Annual grasses. Should tank mix with a broadleaf material. Apply to weed free soil, or tank mix with a post-emergent product. ½ to 1 inch of rainfall/irrigation for activation. Can be used year of planting.

**Simazine 90DF, Princep, other formulations** – Group 5 – Annual broadleaves and grasses. Apply early spring before weeds emerge. See soil-texture rate limitations. Add paraquat for already established weeds. Addition of Prowl or Surflan has improved late-season annual grass and broadleaf weed control. Tank mixes will alter PHI. Can be used 1 year after planting. See label for details.

**Sinbar 80 WDG** – Group 5 - Annual broadleaf weeds, + POST activity on emerged weed seedlings. Tank mix with grass material. Rate varies with tank mix combo, age of tree, soil texture/OM content. Apply to bearing trees as a directed spray to avoid contact with sensitive tissues. For non-bearing, newly planted trees, the first application after rainfall or irrigation has settled the soil around the base of the tree. Not for use on bearing stone fruit, except peaches. Reduced rates for non-bearing stone fruit.

**Solicam** – Group 12 - Annual and perennial grasses. Tank mix with a broadleaf material. Apply early spring before weeds emerge. Do not apply after bud break on sandy loam soils. Rainfall is needed within 4 weeks of application, or worked in with flood or sprinkler irrigation. Trees must be established one year before use. Soil should be settled before application. Do not contact sensitive tissues. See soil texture, rate, and tree age limitations on label. Not recommended for cherry on sandy/loamy sand soils.

**While we do our best to be as accurate as possible, remember to always review the label before selecting your materials! Want to talk more on weed management? Reach out to me at jev67@cornell.edu or 518 410 6823.**
How Long Should our Blueberry Plantings be Kept in Production?

Anya Osatuke, Harvest New York

The top 3 berries grown in New York State are blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries—in that order. A 2017 survey by the National Agricultural Statistical Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that blueberries make up 45% of New York’s berry acreage, which translates to about 1,800 acres. My guess is that this acreage has grown over the past 5 years. While I’ve seen a couple blueberry patches change owners, I’m not aware of any growers ripping out acreage, save for patches that have been devastated by disease.

If pruned correctly, a blueberry patch can live for 80 years. But, according to an article by MSU’s researchers, many of these older plantings are old-fashioned, and could be re-planted to produce better in our modernized systems—these old plantings are planted at low densities (less than 1,400 plants per acre), and they have old, low-yielding varieties.

We also have the issue of pests, viruses, and diseases. Late-fruiting varieties such as ‘Elliot’ are vulnerable to spotted wing drosophila, and it can be costly to maintain a spray program for this pest. Stem gall wasp can do a fair bit of damage to susceptible varieties such as ‘Jersey’ and ‘Liberty’, and chemical management of this pest is very challenging. A better solution may be to plant resistant varieties, such as ‘Bluecrop’. Viruses in blueberry plantings can also be a reason to take the fields out of production, if the virus causes notable decline in yields.

Re-planting a blueberry field is a multi-year commitment, as the soil must be cleared and cover-cropped to prevent replant disorders. Financially it is also a big investment: there are many varieties to choose from, and if the goal is to get high yields for the fresh market and/or mechanical harvest, patented varieties such as ‘Cargo’ and ‘Calypso’ may be the best option.

A less-intense method of rejuvenating a blueberry planting is mowing down all the canes with a brush hog. This approach can help remedy issues such as low vegetative vigor due to a high shoot:root ratio, and it can physically remove some diseases, such as cankers and overwintering stem gall wasp larvae. The bushes will take two to three years to return to production.

Managing our blueberry plantings for maximum productivity involves many aspects: plant nutrition, weed control, pest control, and a robust harvesting procedure. Planting layout and variety selection can either help or hinder these processes.

Virtual Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Grower Training

May 2, 2023

8:45 am - 4:30 pm via Zoom

Cost: $25 per farm

Registration: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=VirtualGAPTraining_230

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) is a voluntary food safety audit program requiring minimum standards for the production, handling, packing, and storing of fresh fruits and vegetables. Many wholesale buyers, including grocery stores, schools, and other institutions, require GAPs certification from farms in order to purchase their produce. Farms considering expanding their wholesale markets should attend this training, which will cover:

An introduction to the GAPs certification program and audit requirements

- Record-keeping and worker training, health and hygiene
- Manure, compost, and wildlife management
- Pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest food safety assessments
- Production water management
- Postharvest water use & packinghouse sanitation
- Traceability & transportation
- Writing a farm food safety plan

Registration: https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=VirtualGAPTraining_230

For more information, contact Elisabeth Hodgdon at (518) 650-5323
This series of monthly meetings will examine seasonal changes in tree fruit and berry crops, demonstrate scouting techniques, and discuss integrative pest management solutions to maximize the health and productivity of berry and fruit plantings. Please bring pictures or descriptions of pests you are concerned about on your farm. 1.5 DEC credits will be offered in categories 1a, 10, and 22. Please arrive at 6:45PM to sign-in for DEC credits. No pre-registration required; event is free to attend. Meetings are held from 7:00PM – 8:30PM on the last Thursday of every month from April through July. Watch for new meeting locations every month.

Please contact Janet van Zoeren with any questions: 585 797 8368 | jev67@cornell.edu
New Produce Safety Factsheets Available for Hydroponics Producers
Elisabeth Hodgdon, CCE-ENYCHP

Understanding how to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)’s Produce Safety Rule can be challenging for hydroponics and aquaponics producers. In response to an identified need for more tailored resources for this industry, the Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) developed a set of five factsheets on the following topics:

- Cleaning and sanitizing
- Fish health and handling
- Harvest and postharvest handling
- Personal health and hygiene

The fact sheets are available here: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/necafs/ponic_resources for download. For more information, contact Elisabeth at eh528@cornell.edu.

The ‘Four-Fingers’ Pruning Concept for Weak and More Vigorous Apple Cultivars
Mario Miranda Sazo

A few years ago, we started noticing a low renewal rate of pruning cuts on low vigor cultivars, especially on NY-1 (SnapDragon) and Honeycrisp trees (on all dwarfing rootstocks). This situation almost completely ‘flushed’ the wood for renewal and ended up producing long sections of blind wood along the trunk, without the possibility of any renewal. This negative effect of repetitive pruning with short, or almost absent stubs, and without successful renewal year after year, was more pronounced on very low vigor cultivars. When we started leaving stubs of 3-4 fingers length (a minimum of 2-3 inches) the rate of renewal was increased by more than 50-60% in these low vigor cultivars.

Today we use the “four-fingers” pruning concept to secure renewal in low vigor apple cultivars like Honeycrisp:

We leave a longer stub to secure the renewal of at least one shoot/stub.
This pruning practice helps to prevent blind-wood sections along the trunk.

We have also more recently implemented the same ‘four-fingers’ pruning concept (but with a different goal) to “diffuse” or “calm” vigor (by pulling of the sap) in more vigorous cultivars like Fuji:

- a short stub can develop a too vigorous/long shoot. It usually needs to be pruned again the next season.
- a longer stub can renew 2-3 shorter shoots, sometimes with a flower at the tip (for tip bearing cultivars like Fuji).
- multiple shoots/stub diffuse energy, compete for resources, and calm sooner = they become more fruitful. Trees produce fruit closer to the trunk.

In addition to the ‘four-fingers’ pruning concept, growers and their pruning crews have also found very practical the use of the “3 Ts pruning rule” for young plantings. When applying this rule, you should remove anything that is out of balance, especially any branch that is:

Too thick, and/or Too long, and/or Too narrow
Always leave a longer stub
Use the “3 Ts pruning rules” for young plantings (even after the year of planting)

The use of these pruning techniques (when transitioning from long to short pruning) and closer in-row spacings have resulted in skinnier, taller, and calmer trees full of short fruitful fruiting units with minimal summer pruning. Some of the same pruning techniques described here are also very applicable for the production of the two- or three-year ‘grow-through’ strategy and management of grafted blocks with one or more leaders per rootstock.

Last day to Enroll for the 2023 Fruit Facts will be Friday May 5 – Enroll Today!
Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

Are you enrolled for this year’s Fruit Facts? We have been providing a few complementary issues this spring, as a reminder to re-enroll if you would like to. You can re-enroll in with the Fruit Team and for your Fruit Facts subscription at: https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php.

Also, did you notice the new format for the Fruit Facts this season? This year we decided that instead of dividing pest and horticultural management issues separately, we now have included them together, and divided the document into tasks you need ‘to do today’ versus items ‘on the horizon’ that you may want to start planning for now. With the photography work conducted by Liz Tee, we have also included a significant amount of green tip phenology pictures (see below GT pictures taken on April 6 ) to keep you updated early in the season. We will continue using more pictures to reinforce our Fruit Facts ‘visual message’. We hope you have enjoyed the new format for the Fruit Facts! As always, we welcome any feedback you may have to improve it this year. Don’t wait any longer and enroll today!
USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Agricultural Labor Survey in April. The survey will collect information about hired labor from more than 2,000 farmers and ranchers. NASS will publish survey results May 24 in the Farm Labor report available on the NASS website. In the survey, NASS asks producers to answer a variety of questions about hired farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, the total hours worked, and total wages paid for the weeks of Jan 8-14 and April 9-15, 2023. Survey participants can respond online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail.

“Agricultural labor data are critical in helping producers when hiring workers and estimating expenses,” said King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “The data that farm operators provide through NASS’s Agricultural Labor Survey also allow federal policymakers to base farm labor policies on accurate information.”

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use the results of this survey to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

“By asking about two separate time periods each time we collect data during the year, we are able to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation,” said Whetstone. “This approach reduces the number of times we survey farms, while ensuring that accurate and timely data are available.”

All previous Farm Labor publications are available on the NASS website at nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518. Participants can visit youtube.be/6oWSOjGTQzU for further instructions on completing the survey.

Producers responding online can use the NASS Respondent Portal. On the portal, producers can complete their surveys, see previously reported data, access data visualizations and reports of interest, link to other USDA agencies, get a local weather update, and more.

NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Mark Your Calendar

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<td>Wednesday, April 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>12-1:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Virtual (Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Description of Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting Title</th>
<th>Respirator Fit Testing in Wayne County</th>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>Cost</td>
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<td>Contact for Info/Registration</td>
<td>Please register by April 14th with To register contact Janet van Zoeren at 585 797 8368 or <a href="mailto:jev-67@cornell.edu">jev-67@cornell.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Virtual Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 2</td>
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<th>Meeting Title</th>
<th>2022 Tree Fruit IPM Schools (simultaneously in English &amp; Spanish)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>June 14 (Wayne County) and June 21 (Hudson Valley)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Description of Meeting</td>
<td>We’re excited to share that this tour will be co-hosted with Agrassistance, Lake Ontario Consulting, and Reality Research!</td>
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Spring Orchard Pre-Emergent Herbicides
How Long Should our Blueberry Plantings be Kept in Production?
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May 2, 2023

New Produce Safety Factsheets Available for Hydroponics Producers
The ‘Four-Fingers’ Pruning Concept for Weak and More Vigorous Apple Cultivars

Last day to Enroll for the 2023 Fruit Facts will be Friday May 5 – Enroll Today!
USDA to Gather Data about Farm Labor
Mark Your Calendar

Fruit Notes
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Fruit Specialists

Craig Kahlke | 585-735-5448 | cjk37@cornell.edu
Team Leader, Fruit Quality Management
Areas of Interest: Fruit Quality and factors that affect fruit quality before, during, and after storage.
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums

Mario Miranda Sazo | 315-719-1318 | mrm67@cornell.edu
Cultural Practices
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Gooseberries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums

Janet van Zoeren | 585-797-8368 | jev67@cornell.edu
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Areas of Interest: IPM of tree fruit and berry pests, biological control, pollinators.
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants,

For more information about our program visit us at lof.cce.cornell.edu